



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913
PH (517) 373.1801 | FAX (517) 373.5801
www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/hardiman/

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Contact: Alan Bolter
(517) 373-1801

Hardiman to join Granholm at bill signing *Governor to sign Lead-protection package*

LANSING – State Sen. Bill Hardiman, R-Kentwood, will join the governor on Tuesday, Dec. 21 as a package of bills aimed at protecting children from lead poisoning are signed into law. The signing will take place in the Warren Connors Development, 11148 Harper, Detroit, at 10:45 a.m.

Senate Bill 756, sponsored by Hardiman, requires the state Department of Community Health to create a public list of rental or leased housing units that have been deemed free of lead-based paint. A certified lead-paint risk assessor would make that determination.

“This legislation helps ensure Michigan children won’t endure the mental and developmental disabilities that lead poisoning causes,” Hardiman said. “Although lead-based paint was banned in 1978, children who live in older homes, especially those in poorer neighborhoods, are often at risk from paint chips still flaking off the walls and windows.”

The package also requires laboratories that perform tests on lead levels in blood report the findings to the Community Health Department. It also prohibits landlords from knowingly renting or leasing dwellings with lead-paint hazards.

In addition, the legislation will create a lead-poisoning prevention and control commission. The commission will draw upon the knowledge and expertise of a broad group of experts on lead issues and will make further recommendations to the Legislature and administration.

The other bills in the package are SB 757, 753, and HB 5116.

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